## THE CARLIST WAR.

Don Carlos' Military Position in the Mountains.

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Beginning at the French frontier, just north of Roncesvalles, there extends across the Basque Provinces a range of mountains. These mountains are really an extension of the Pyrenees, and they traverse the whole of northern Spain in a line nearly parallel to the sea coast, from which they are about thirty miles distant. We have to do with only that part of the range lying between the French frontier and the Ebro, and which is here called by the different names of the Aralar-the Sierra de Eiguea and the Sierra de Urquioto-but which I shall call for greater convenience simply THE SIERRA DE ARALAR.

They sweep around in a gentle curve to the south, and, passing between Vittoria and Bibao, form the watersned in which the Ebro takes its rise. Just north of Pampeluna they send a spur south, which reaches to that place, and north of Vittoria another, which extends past Bilbao to the sea. South of the Aralar will be observed another range of mountains, the eastern half of which is called the Sierra de Andia, the western half the Sierra de They are of a peculiar triangular shape, and with the Arabar and the spurs which they project southward inclose two or three little valleys that have always played an important part in the wars of which the country about Estella has been, from time immemorial, the theatre.

A GIGANTIC PORTRESS. The first of these is the valley of the Araquil. As will be seen, it is bounded on the north by the Aralar, on the south by the Urbasa and the Andia, and on the east and west by spurs which these ranges project north and south and complete the circle. The valley thus inclosed is about thirty-five miles long and varies from two to eight miles in width, averaging, perhaps, three miles wide and measuring about 100 square miles in extent. It is through this valley that the railroad passes from Pampeluna to Vittoria. The mountains that shut it in are exceedingly difficult to cross; to armies quite impossible, except by

THE ROADS which lead over them and which I will now

From the north there are two-the one from Tolosa to Alsasua, the other from Tolosa to Irur-They both lead over difficult mountain passes of the Aralar, through narrow delies that are commanded by overhanging cliffs, where a few men, advantageously posted, can keep an

From the west there is only the one leading from Vittoria to Fampeluna, which enters the valley of Salvatierra and is almost as difficult as the others. It passes through the whole length of the valley and emerges from it at Irdisun, taus forming an other entrance on the east.

This entrapce is a double one. The first is that by which the highway comes in: it is a little un-even, rolling plain, about balf a mile wide, and is by far the eastest place to force a passage into the valley. The other is a narrow sorge, about a hundred feet wide, where the little river Araquil breaks through the mountain wall which bems it in. It is bounded on either side by cliffs 300 or 600 feet high, which form literally a kind of gigan-Me gateway. It is through this gateway that the

The fifth road and only one from the south is that leading from Estella to Alsasna. The Sierra de Andia, ever which this road passes and the Sierra de Urbasa present a very steep ascent on their northern slope, and this slope, before reaching the summit, abruptly ceases and ends in a high, over which even a goat cannot pass. This wall extends nearly the whole distance from Irursun to Salvatierra, taat is the whole southern side of the valley, and the engineers making the road, the only one, it will be remembered, on the south, found it easier to pierce this wall with a remark upon the ease with which this road may the Carists, as it is their only direct route, con-necting Guipuzcoa and Navarre. No part of two others, from Vera and from Irurann, both of which pass through Pampeluna. This little valley of the Araguil, shut in on all sides by impassable mountain barriers and page walls of rock, with only the five gateways I have described, te therefore, a kind of gigantic fortress, conherself-a fortress which can never be besieged. and which can never be starved out, because it incloses within its walls a rich and fertile valley, producing enough provisions to support, year after year, ten times the number of men required for its delence. I have said there are five gatewave leading into ic; but as two of these are from the north, and as the whole country north of the Armar to the sea coast is hold by the Carliste, army of Alfonso can effect an entrance. They are the one from Vittoria, that from Pampeluna and

CONNECTION WITH THE VALLEY OF THE AMESCOAS. But this is not all. The Carlists nave connected. this valley with that of the Amescons by a mountain road, good enough to allow their artiflery to mass of mountains of the Sierra de Urbasa and the Sierra de Andia. The eastern angle, as I have already shown, is near Truraun, the westernsouth of Vittoria. The southern angle or spex is kind of triangle three or tour little valleys, which I will now describe. Two of these—the Val de Ollo and the Val de Gana, in the eastern corner of the Sierra de Andia-are but a few miles in extent, Arequil by mountain paths and inaccessible to an army. They serve to enlarge the valley of the Araquil and serve on leaders to it.

Just northwest of Estella, in the heart of the Sterra de Urbasa, lies the valley or valleys of the Upper and Lower Amescoas. These valleys are of considerable extent, measuring, altogether, porhaps a hundred square miles, rich and fertile, and they are even more completely sout in by mountain walls than the Valley of the Araquit. They are inclosed on the southwest by the Montes de los Amescoas, which, projecting from the Sierra de Urbasa south of Vittoria, extend in a southeasterly direction to a point just north of Estella southers spur of the Andia by a narrow gorge. This narrow gorge, a hundred lest wide, is the only gateway into these valleys, and even the road which passes in here was not practicable for artillery until, recently made so by the Carlists, The valley is watered by streams which, tumbling down from the mountains, unite and find their way

one through this narrow gorge, as through the neck of a bottle, emptying into the figs. near Estella. The only other road leading into it is a mountain path to Alsasua, connecting it with the Valley of the Araquil, which the Carliets have likewise made practicable for artillery. For a distance of afteen or twenty miles on either side of this gateway, on the south, the wall of rock and mountain does not seem to be crossed by even a single mule-path, and for a great part of the distance not even a goat could get over. The Amescons is, therefore, another fortress like that of the Valley of Araquil, but even stronger and easier of defence.

Let us now take a glance at the map, and we will begin to understand something of the pecuher strength of the Carist positions. It should be remembered that Bilbao, Vittoria and Fampeluna are in the possession of the Alionsisis. It will be seen that, with the Aralar Mountains, the spurs they send south, enclosing the Valley of the Ara quil on the east and the Sierra de Andia, there is a continuous range of mountains from the French frontier, near Roncevalles to the gorge of the Amescoas, just spoken of, near Estella, a distance of flity miles; that with the western wall of the Amescoas, the Sierra de Urbasa, the Aralar and the spur they send north past Bilbao, there is another almost continuous range of mountains from Estella to the sea. These mountains, therefore, enclose an immense triangle, whose spex is Estella and whose base is on the sea-a base that may be measured from Bilbao to the French frontier. The whole of it, with the exception, which I shall refer to presently, is in possession of the Carlists. The eastern side, or that between Estella and the French frontier, is crossed by only three roads. Iwo of these—the one from Estella to Alsasua and that from Pampeluna to Trursun-1 have already deand Bayonne, which crosses the main range of the Pyrenees or Aralar, and sends a branch to Vera before reaching France. ON THE OTHER SIDE.

from Estella to Blibao, there are five, one of which, that from Vittoria into the Valley of the Araquil, I have also described. Of the other four it is only necessary to say that they all enter the triangle by difficult mountain passes, which are very easy to defend. Of course, a large army of disciplined troops eight or ten times superior in nassage by either of them at a great sacrifice of lile; but neither Serrano, nor any of the men who have been in power since Don Carlos has taken the field, have been able to induce the Spanish army to make such a sacrifice. It may now be seen why it is that Don Carlos, with a handful of undisciplined men, without officers and without artillery, has hitherto been able to set the armies of the Madrid government at defiance. This triangle is, in short, a huge fortress that cannot be surrounded nor besleged. an army of 30,000 men; a fortress whose parapets are among the clouds, whose granite walls are proof against all the pigmy artillery man can bring against them. It is a kind of wedge driven into the side of Spain between Pampeluna and Vittoria, like a nail; a wedge whose big end is the Province of Guipuscoa and a part of Biscay; whose point is that triangular cluster of mountains north of Estella, called the Urbasa and the Andia, and which, penetrating almost to the Ebro, threatens old Castile and points eminously toward Madrid. Although the country actually held by the Carlists is much larger than this, and extends to the south and east, including nearly the whole of Navarre, as well as to the west, including Biscay, this wedge is the heart and the stronghold of

It was within this boundary that CHARLES V. MAINTAINED THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE for seven long years, and the country is still as thoroughly Carlist as it was forty years ago, and is ready to wage another seven years' war. THE WEAK POINT.

This fortress has one weak point, however, owing to the fact that the Carlists have not got possession of quite all of it. Near the sea coast and the French frontier will be observed three towns-St. Sebastian, Hernani and Trun-forming a small triangle, whose largest side is about twelve miles. These places are all to the hands of the Alfonsiets, and are more or less strongly fortifled. St. Sebasties and Passages-a little fishing village near it—are good scaports where troops may be rapidly landed in great numbers, as was shown during the siege of Trun. These places, in the hands of Alfonso, and which the Carlists, had they but had good officers, would have obtained possession of long ago, enable him to attack the Carlist stronghold in the rear. They form, in fact, large one, and which threatens to open it from behind. But here the friendly mountains have again interposed, as if expressly to favor the Carl-There is a range of mountains that protect north from the Arajar and reach the sea at Irun, near the French frontier. The peak called the Hendaye, St. Jean de Luz aud Biarritz must have remarked as the highest of what appears to be the Pyrenées, is in reality the extreme northern point of this spur of the Aralar, and it gradually slopes down to the heights of San Marcial, famous as the position of one of the Carlist batteries during the stege of Iran. A short distance from its junction with the Aralar another low range projects from it and reaches the sea west of St. ebastian, and thus forms a kind of fork, between whose prongs are situated the three fortresses. They are thus inclosed in a mountain triangle, which separates them from the rest of the coun try, and this is why St. Sebastian has been so little used as a base of operations against the Cartists in the north. By simply holding three roads, which are easily defended, the Carlists can keep a large army cooped up in this little triangle and

render it almost useless.

THE THREE ROADS
are—the one from Irun to Vers, that follows up the valley of the Bidassoa, a narrow, crooked, rocky defile, which a battailon can hold against an army; the one from St. Sebastian to Angoain, almost equally difficult, and that from Iron to Solosa, which emerges from the triangle at Urnieta. It was in attempting a sortie by this latter road that Lama with forces triple those of the Carlists, was so badly beaten and wounded on the Sin of December. After a desperate atruggle. which lasted two days, he was obliged to give up the attempt. The road emerges from the triangle here through a little valley, which is dominated by hills and bluffs, the Carlists have long since seized and fortified. But the Carlists have never contented themselves with simply holding these roads. Although the little corner of country tons inclosed belongs of right to the army bolding the it and hold it, up to the very walls of the forts sometimes even sleeping in the suburbs of St. Sc-

THESE THREE PORTRESSES. only ten miles apart, owing to the apathy or in capacity of the officers in command of them, are generally as completely separated from each other, as far as communication by land is concerned, as though they were a hundred miles apart. It was this fact which enabled the Carlists to besiege Irun, and which enables them to hold three-fourths of this little corner yet, in spite of their having been driven out of it after the battles of San Marco and Oyarsun. Any other but Spanish officers would drive the Carlists out and keep them out, and although they might not be able to get out themselves and attack, they would at least keep the Carilsts from getting in. This, however, would require a degree of energy, activity and vigitance which any Spanish officer with the consideration, and the result is that there is no communication between Irun and St. Sebastien except by sea, and none between St. Sebastian and Hernant except by means of large convoys of troops. There is one other road leading out of the triangle watch I have not yet mentioned. It is one which branches of from the road between St. Sebastian and Andoain, and goes to Orio, on the sea coast. This road, however, the Carlists will defend at Orio, where it crosses the little river of that name and then passes over a steep mountain.

THE POINT OF THE WEDGE. Let us now return to the positions about Es-

of as the stronghold of Carlism is that mountain de Andia and the Montes of Americas. That which may be termed the western wall of the Amescoas, seen from the direction of Logrofia. presents a perpendicular wall of rock four or five hundred feet high, over which nothing but a bird can pass, and through which no opening, no gateway can be perceived. The gateway exists, nevertheless—the gorge of the Amescoas, a unudred feet wide, already described. As one approaches Estella, however, it can be perceived, bounded on either side by towering walls of rock and chiff five or six hundred feet high-a very Titan's gateway-and right in front, at the distance of three miles, stands Monte Turra, like a giant sentinel, keeping watch before it. Between the gateway on one side and this sentinel on the other, down deep in the valley of the Ega lies Estella.

THE CITY OF THE "STAR." Its name signifies "star," and the legend which ascribes its foundation to the express commands of the Blessed Virgin relates that she manifested her desire by appearing in the heavens and dropping a star on the spot where the town was to bulwark of the Holy Catholic Religion. The legend is preserved and confirmed by an old stone cross on the hillside overlooking the town, on which is rudely cut a human hand pointing upwards to Strangely enough the prophecy has been fuifilled, if Don Carlos is to be considered a champion of the Faith, for Estella has hitherto been the principal battle ground of Carlism. At any rate whoever chose the site of Estella must have had a good military eye, for, apart from its wonderful strategic advantages, it is most admirably sitnated for defence.

Projecting from the rocky wall of the Amescoa and sweeping around Estella on the east, past Aburzuza, Zaballs and Villatuerta, is

A SEMI-CIRCULAR RIDGE, which reaches almost around to Monte Turra. On Monte Turra on one side and the Amescoas cliffs on the other, complete the circle of defence. circle is broken in two places only, where the Evanows in and where it flows cut. But, as may be easily imagined, the valley of this little stream is a narrow crooked dell, in some places scarcely dominated by overhanging bluffs, which must be carried before an army can get in. The valley is so deep and narrow that the town, which is built partly in it, partly on the hillside, cannot be seen on either of the roads entering it, until one is within a hundred vards of its towers. It can reach it as long as the surrounding hills are held by its defenders, and when they are lost it must fall without a bombardment.

POINTS OF ENTRANCE. There are eight roads leading into it. The first commencing on the north, is the one to Alsasua which I have already described as crossing the Sierra de Andia through a tunnel, and which is, of course, in possession of the Carlists. The second is the one to Pampeluna direct, and the third that to Puenta la Reina, both of which are, since the battle of Abutzuza, in possession of the Carlists. The fourth is the one from Oteiza, which, uniting with that from Puenta la Reina, near Villatueria, enters the town by the valley of the Ega. It was by this road the fil-starred Concha advanced at the battle of Aburzuza. The fifth is the one from Dicastillo, which, passing around the southern slope of Monte Turra and winding about among the foot hills of that mountain, through deep out tings, and afterward passing beneath a cliff the town, is as easily defended as the one up the valley of the Ega. It was here the battle of Dicastillo was fought, where the republicans were defeated in a determined attack on the gallant little town. The sixth is the one from Logrono through Los Arcos. It passes around the north side of Monte Turra, through a little plain a quarter of a mile wide, which lies between Monte Torra and the mount called Monjardin. Here was lought the battle of Monte Turra, where the Carlists were victorious, as they have been in every battle before Estella. The seventh is the road from Vittoria, which enters the town by the gorge or dell where the Ega flows in, and this is the only road by which an attack has not been tried. This road, up to the very walls of Vittoria is in possession of the Carlists. The eighth, which, until made practicable for artillery lately by the Carifsts was only a mule math. leads up into the valley of the Amescoos and thence over the Sierra de Utbasa to Alsasua. Tale is, of course, in the bands of the Carlists, and the way by which they would retreat in case Es-

tella were taken. CABLIST ADVANTAGES Of the eight roads, therefore, that lead into Estella, five are in the hands of the Carillais and no advance can be made by even the ones from Pampeluna. Puenta la Reina and Vittoria. these roads. In the present positions of the two armies an attack upon Estella direct can only be made by three roads—the one from Los Arcos, that from Dicastillo and the one from Oteiza. Ail the postulous on the roads, in addition to the defences nature has bestowed on them, have been fortified by the Carlists and made well nigh impregnaple, although the style of fortification leaves, in my opinion, a great deal to be desired. Or which, however, more anon.

A FORMIDARLE HOLD.

It will be seen from this description that the position occupied by Don Carlos is a most formid-able one. Leaning back against the mighty wall Ebro and holding in his hand an army as ding as ever was blade in the hands of knight of old, he is no mean fee, and is well worthy the steel of the best army and the best general of Europe. But even were Estella taken mountain wedge, he could still set the might of Don Alfonso at defiance for another seven years, as did his grandfather before him. This was so well understood by Concha that at the battle of Abursuza he had planned not only to take Estella, but to capture the whole Carlist army.

THE BATTLE OF ABURZUZA. It may not be amiss to say something about this battle here, the more especially as it is probable Estella is taken. It was said after the battle that Conche had kept his plan such a secret that it died with him, and nobody knew how to carry it out. The truth is that it was so thoroughly developed by the battle that every officer in both armies must have known it as well as Conona himself. He advanced by way Oteiza as far as Villatuerta, made mem-orable as the place where Captain Schmidt was taken. But instead of continuing along this road up the narrow, crooked dell of the Egs he deployed his troops to the north along the foot of the semicircular ridge, which I have described of course answering the movement by deploying his troops along the summit of the ridge. Concha's leit now rested upon Villatuerta, his centre before Zabalts on the road to Pampelana and his right at Aburgoza on the road to Alan ua. He now occupied exactly the same position an army advancing from Pampelana would naturally have taken up, and before the battle really commenced had seized one of the only two roads by which the Carlists would effect a retreat-that to Alsasua. His right wing, it will be observed, was exactly opposite the space which separates Estella from the the bettle-like gorge of the Amescoas, through which was the Carlist General's only chance of retreat.

extending from the chils of the Amescoas along the ridge to a short distance above Villatuerta, were about two miles long, and the Carlist army, numbered 18,000 men. with four little brass pieces of mountain artillery, which were almost useless. Concha's army numbered about 40,000 men and seven batteries of forty-two guns of artif-With regard to the difficulties the ground, although the ridge occupied by the Garbeta was high enough and extensive enough to protect Estella against artillery fire, it was by no means so steep as to offer any serious obstacles to the ascent of injantry. Opposite the republican centre at Murrigarren it is true the tella. The point of the wedge which I have spoken | ascent was steep and rocky, and for a short dis-

culty; but the rest of the ridge was moderately steep, covered in some places with vineyards, in others with olive orchards and other places still with low, scrubby oak trees. Opposite Aburzuza, however, the ascent was so gentle that but for the inequalities of the ground a cavalry charge might have been made to the very top. And these inequalities, so far from effering obstacles to the advance of the infantry, assisted them, on the contrary, by offering them cover at every step. CONCHA'S ASSAULT.

After shelling the Carlist positions two days and a half Concha ordered the assault all along the line. The real attack, however, was directed against the heights opposite Aburzuza, for, with the eye of a true General, Concha detected the weak spots in the Carlist line, which happened to be the very place most favorable to his plan. That plan was to throw forward his right wing, seize these heights and the entrauce to the Amescoas, and thus cut off the Carlist retreat; then sweep them down to the Ebro, where they would have been inevitably obliged to surrender. It was in attempting to urge his wavering troops forward to a third or fourth attack upon these beights that he was kilfed. The plan was an admirable one, and had it succeeded the Carlist army would have been bagged as surely as was the French at Sedan. It was a plan that, with his numerical superiority, ought to have succeeded, and would have succeeded had his troops fought half as well as the Carlists.

THE PRESENT POSITION. The position has materially changed since the battle of Aburzuza. The Carlists have taken Puente la Reina, and extended their left to Biurrun, at the mountain of Carrascal, where the road row pass. This is the road by which communication had been kept up with Pampeluna, and the Carnsts, immediately after the battle, invested that place. Pampeluna, all unknown to the world, underwent for seven or eight months the process of starvation, and sustained a siege longer than that of Paris. The investment, it is true, was not very close at first, and provisions were allowed to get in occasionally, but during the last four months nothing was permitted to enter.

Had Pampeluna fallen into the hands of Don Carlos, Allonso XII. might as well have abdicated at once. But, although the Carlist positions are very strong naturally and has been fortified, Estella and the pass of Carrascal could not both be held with the forces the Carlists had against a well directed and resolute attack upon both joints at once. The Carlist line was-counting from Miamayor, on the road to Los Arcos, the extreme right, to Biurrun or Carrascal, the extreme lefttwenty-eight miles long. They could not bring more than 25,000 men to the defence of this line, without completely leaving the roads leading from St. Sebastian, Bilbao and Vittoria unprotected. They had more troops than they had at Abujzuza, but their line was ten times as long as it then was, while the enemy had fitteen or twenty thousand more men to bring against it than they had thenthat is, about 60,000 men. Although the Carlist right and lett at Estella and Carrascal were exceedingly strong, the centre at Puente la Reina was comparatively weak. The positions before Estella, forming the Carlist right, I have already described, and I will now give a short description of the left and centre.

as I have already explained, rested on the road from Tatalia to Pampeluna. The road here runs through a narrow pass between the mountain of Carrascal, on the side of Biurrun, and the mountains called the Sierra de Aliaz on the other. It is a place easily defended, and the Carlists besides strengthened it with treaches.

THE CARLIST FRONT. it should be stated, extended from Pueye, on the lett wing, through Artajona, Mendigorria, Otelza

it should be stated, extended from Pueve, on the leit wing, through Artajona, Mendigorria, Oteiza and Dieasthilo to Villamayor, at the extreme right. Pueve and Artajona will, however, probably not be defended seriously, as the positions of Carrascal are much stronger. The line of defended seriously, as the positions of Carrascal are much stronger. The line of defence of the centre, in front of Puente, will be a little behind Mendig rria. This is one of the weak points of the Carlist line. There is a range of hills, it is true, extending from the Artajona road to Puente; but offering only gentle ascents on this side, they possess little more advantage for defence than open fields, and afford as much protection to the attacking party as to the attacked.

An OPEN FLAY.

The whole country between Puente, Mendigoria and the Artajona road may practically be considers an open plain, which is five or six nules in extent, over which infantry can pass anywhere. Allowing the Carlista every chance which good generalship and a good army may give, it is, nevertheless, evident that as their enemy could bring a vasily superior force against the whole line at once this part of it might be driven in by a resounte and persistent attack. And this because the ground offers no advantage of position to commensate the Carlists for their weakness in point of numbers. Puente taken, the Carlist general should abandon cither Carrascal or Extelia. Puente la Reina in possession of the Allonsius, the road would be open from that place to Pampeigna, even though Carrascal and Estelia should both held out, which is hardly probable indeed, there would be up reason to hold Carrascal

or Extelia. Fuente la Reina in possession of the Al'onsais, the road would be open from that place to Pameelana, even though Carrascal and Estelia should both held out, which is hardly probable. Indeed, there would be no reason to hold Carrascal were any other road open to Pampeluna. The part of the Carlist line between Mendizorria and Otelza is also comparatively weak. Extending the whole distance oetween these two places there is a low mountain, covered with a thin, low, scrubny wood. This mountain offers some advantages for defence, but the greater part of it is by no means inaccessible to infantey. An attacking force double that of the defenders ought to carry it with ease. As I have already shown, the liberal army will be able to bring not only double but triple the forces of the Carlists against the whole line. Otelza and this mountain carried, they would get nossession of the Puente road from Ciranetin to Vinatuerta, and, as in the other case, the Carlists army would be cut in two.

THE CARLIST PORTIFICATIONS.

A great deal has been said about the fortifications around Estelia and Carrascal, and it is naughly supposed that they are of the most formidable kind. Their strength has, however, in my opinion, been greatly exaggerated. They consist simply of narrow trenches about eighteen incomes wide and ioth or five lect deep, rather resembling what were caned rife pits in our war than regular erritworks. Artillery is almost useless against them, it is true, for unless a shell explodes exactly in the trench it does no harm, and then it rarely sills more than one man. This was proven at the battles of Somorrostro and Aburzuza—especially in the latter, where Conchastic attenting army stays off and shouts at long range a small force will hold such frenches against ten times its number. But the case is different when it comes to receive the range is numbered men. They are equally proof, of course, against small arms. As iong a single dail made, because they lack the ditch becore the trenches necessary to stop an

fore the trenches necessary to stop an assaulting column. There is really nothing before many of these trenches to prevent a cherge of cavalry right over them, not to speak of a bayonet charge by resolute inlantry. A heavy assaulting column thrown against such trenches, five or six times as strong (aumerically) as their defender, must inevitably carry them, with heavy loss, it is true.

This is the defender as assaulting column but the bayonets of the defenders. Any fortifications. There is nothing to stop an assaulting column but the bayonets of the defenders. Any fortification worthly of the name should have before the trenches ditches or something to stop an assaulting column long enough to allow the defenders time to fire several rounds at point blank range, it requires the most desperate courage to fill such ditches under fire, and recourse is susually had to long range artifiery to accomplish the work. This takes time, and, until Pampeinna falls, the Carlists have everything to gain by putting off a fight nere as long as possible. But the Carlist generals, probably relying upon the unsteadness of their adversary's troops, have quite nepiceted this important part of all fortifications. During the six months they have held those positions they might have fortified the whole line from Estella to Carpseal and made it impossible to take any other part of its

troops, have quite neglected this important part of all ortifications. During the six months they have held those post-lons they might have lortified the whole line from Isstella to Carrascal and made it impossible to take any other part of it without the assistance of siege artillery.

With the fortifications in their present state artack—searly three to one—it is my opinion that some part of the line will give way and that the Carlists will be obliged to abandon either Estella or Carrascal. It is difficult to say which they would give np with least disadvantage. If they lose Carrascal Pampeinna will be redieved, and all their hopes of taking that important place dashed to the ground forever, while the moral effect of losing Estella would possibly prove disastrons, unless speculty followed by the fail of Pampeinna. That place is so nearly starved out, however, that it would possibly be better to let go Estella, which could be captured again, and make sure of Pampeinna.

The Road From Sanguesa.

could be emptured again, and make sure of Pampeluna.

There is one more road by which Pampelina might be relieved, which I have not yet mentioned—that is, the road from Sanguesa. The Carista hold this road somewhere near Monreal, but it is so easy of defence, owing to the mountains through which it passes, that they have hitherto held it with one of two companies. It is just probable that it will be attempted to relieve the beleaghered city by this route, and that the attempt will succeed simply because not looked for. The Carists, with the negligance which characterizes them, have omitted to fortify the positions here, and will his wise probably omit to defend it when the time comes.

SAVINGS BANKS DEPOSITS.

UNFINISHED ACCOUNTS—THE ROMANCE OF AN

CIENT DEPOSITS-THE LAW ON THE SUBJECT

For nearly twenty years or more it has been the almost annual custom of the Legislature to call for information concerning the amount of money on deposit with the savings banks of the State which has been unclaimed for ten, twenty years or more, and nearly as often as the inquiry has been ordered the attempt has been made to pass a law requiring the panks to turn over these so called "unclaimed deposits" to the custody of the houses in turn, but so far no such bill has reached the Governor for his signature, it having always perished by the way in one or the other House. Meantime the impression seems to have lingered as a tracition about the State Capitol that there was "millions in it"-in short, that the prosperity of our savings banks was largely due to the possession of this money which the owners had forgotten to call for. On Tuesday the Superintendent of the Bank Department submitted to the Senate, subject, from which it appears that the savings banks-of the State hold \$316,656 60 of deposits which have not been claimed for twenty years and upward, and \$538,188 which has remained in their hands for more than ten and less than twenty years. Of these sums by far the larger part is, of of the grand total being in the hands of three banks-viz, the Bank for Savings in the city of New York (Bleecker street), the Sea-man's and the Bowery. Of these the first named is the oldest in the State, having been organized in 1819; the second was established in 1829, and the third a few years later, and all of them have numbered among their depositors and officers many of the best known and most honored of New York's merchants and fluanciers. With a view to learn how the proposed sequestration by the State of these deposits is viewed by bank officers, and what effect such action would be likely to have on the depositors, a reporter called yesterday at several of the older institu-

The first one visited was, as was natural by right of seniority, the Bank for Savings in the right of seniority, the Bank for Savings in the city of New York, better known as the "Bleecker Street Savings Bank," from the Bleecker Street Savings Bank," from the Bleecker of its eld-lashioned stable looking building. Here, in the absence of both President and Secretary, the reporter was referred to Mr. Craig. Comptroller, who said:—"I can really tell you very little about the matter. I suppose you have seen the printed abstract of the report in the daily papers. We do not, however, call these "unclaimed deposits," as they are liable to be and are claimed every day. We call them accounts not acted upon for so many jears, but they are really no different from any other accounts."

Repostre—They draw interest then all the

REPORTER—They draw interest then all the time ? Mr. CRAIG-Certainly; interest is credited semi-

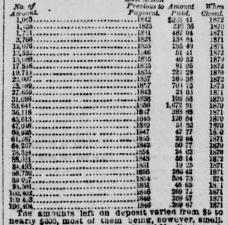
REPORTER—Then these accounts are at com-pound interest, the interest being compounded

pound interest, the interest being compounded semi-annually?

Mr. Craig--Exactly; and these old accounts are being presented constantly, but for details you had better see Mr. Rock wood, our accountant, Mr. Rock wood, on being appealed to, said in substance, "These old accounts are constantly coming in, and some of them under very curious circumstances. Persons having deposits here often leave them undisturbed for years, feeling perfectly secure about them, and having no need to draw the money, and then, under pressure of some unexpected beed, they will come in to draw their maney, or perhaps the original depositor will die, and His book will be presented by the administrator of his essate. If you can come in again in the course of an hour I will give you some cases in point."

In point."

At the appointed time the reporter returned and was handed the following table of accounts, paid within the past five years, Mr. Rockwood explaing that it was not at all a but statement—only such a selection as he had been able to make up



The amounts left on deposit varied from \$6 to nearly \$600, most of them being, however, small.

"Many of these depositors," said Mr. Rockwood, "thought they nad drawn all their money when there was really a small amount of interest due them, and that had gone on compounding ustil them, and that had gone on compounding ustil they remembered it and came around to inquire about it. Some too, have curious histories attached to them. Thus, No. 28,399 was an account opened with us in 1825 by a Benjamin Asnton, an Enghaman, who drove a can here, and who, in 1837, returned to England expecting to return, and having \$30 malance on his bank book. Somebody there advised him that he could never recover his money and he barned has book. Some years afterward he died, never having returned here, leaving his property to a nephew. A few years ago this nephew haw in an English paper a report of the Dime Savings bank, of Brocklyn, and wrote to that gontheman, teding the circumstances of his uncle's having an account in some New York savings bank. Mr. Edwards sent the letter to us, a correspondence took place through the British Consul. Mr. Archibaid, and in 1873, as you see, we paid over to the Consul, for the nephew, over \$700. The account had been regularly borne on our ledgers, though we had heard nothing of the depositor. Here is the letter of thanks he wrote to Mr. Archibaid on receiving the money, and which last gentleman sent to us,"

In this letter the fortunate heir, a Mr. Binnington, after expressing his thanks, says:—"I have a lamily of nine chindren, a heavily rented farm on which I was born; I have lost three cows and two horses in less than twelve months, and tages who orget to have been my friends have been my enemies; I am sorry to say so that it has come, in the order of God's good providence, in thise of need," "These things are constantly occurring," said Mr. Rockwood, "and we can never consider these accounts closed."

At the

At the BOWRY SAVINGS BANK
the Secretary, Mr. Coggeshall, said:—"We do not recognize any 'unclaimed deposits.' We look upon all accounts as just the same and pay them whenever presented, no matter how long they may have been running. A day or two say we wrote up the book of a leading merchant who sad made a deposit here twenty-two years ago and had never called to inquire about it since. As to the proposed law, we care nothing about it. They more strict they make the laws in the interest of the depositors the better we shall like it. They cannot make any which will be more severe than our own rules. As to this proposed law i can only say we never consider an account closed and find they are constantly turning up after long intervals."

Sr. Alfred T. Conklin, President of the Mr. Alfred T. Conklin, President of the

wais."

Air. Alfred T. Conklin, President of the Meghanics and tradems' savings institution, said:—"We have no amount of those deposits, but if we had I should care nothing about such a law. I should pay no sort of attention to it. The Legislature cannot divert a trust coaldon to us. If we should pay no sort of attention to it. The Legislature cannot divert a trust coaldon to us. If we should turn over our deposits to the State after they had been unchaimed for a certain number of years and thea a depositor should walk in and claim his money we should be obliged to pay it or ne could sue and recover. We have cases very often of men coming in whose accounts have been running for twenty years and more, but who have not cared to disturb them. We are the custodians of their money and cannot delegate the responsibility to any one class, not even the State. Most of these sectemes are gotten up for "striking" purposes. A lew years ago a man in Albany tried this thing 2nd had a bill introduced for the turning over of these deposits, and a short time alterwards I received a letter from a lawyer in Wall street proposing to save the matter 'settled.' I threw his letter in the drawer. I wouldn't give a cent to prevent the passage of such a bill, for it would be unconstitutional, and I should pay no attention to it. If a man presented thinself here with such a bill with a view to getting money I should kick him out. I believe these bills are generally devised just to make a strike, because the per diem of those fellows is not enough to pay their board."

At the

At the Shamen's savings institution the President, Mr. Wm. H. Mady, confirmed the testimony of the other gentiemen hamed as to the frequency with which deposits were called for on accounts which had not been disturbed for more than twenty years. In regard to such a law as that referred to he said, "It would be decarly unconstitutional and we should refuse to obey it, when it would, of course, go to the Court of Appears for decision and would be decired unconstitutional. They might pass a law providing that deposits made after a certain dues sould be paid over to the State a ster a certain number of years,

## SPRING FASHIONS.

Opening of the Modistes Season.

What the Present Month Brings Forth.

A Glimpse at the New Styles in Bonnets and Dress Goods.

The month of March being the opening of spring. according to the calendar, we are supposed to be therefore delighted, and to hunt up all that the old poets have sung in her praise. But this precious climate of ours plays so many queen tricks that a snow storm or other agreeable visitor from above may suddenly put in an ap pearance when one comes to talk of "baimy breath" and "beautiful spring," Yet, however the poets and "Old Probabilities" may differ, the milliner and dressmaker have a mission to per form, and during the past week many a window in Broadway has been gayly adorned with all that tends to make the female heart grow glad, Neither sleet, rain nor piercing wind, leaden skies nor sloppy streets, will de-ter the fair one from shopping when Mistress Fashion gives the command, Delicate pink, pale silver and the other charming. hues of spring sitts must be seen, rain or shine, and the wearers of sealskin jackets wish to know how the new styles in polonaises, mantillas and capes will look upon them when spring comes in earnest, and jurs are to be finally discarded. As far as March fashious are practically to be considered, a warm cloak and a thick veil, especially the latter, may be regarded as the only valuable addi tions to the toilet. The sharp winds of March pay in fashion which have taken place within a few years are marvellous, and yet the revolution has been accomplished by such imperceptible degrees that it has been scarcely felt. The progress has

years are marvelous, and yet the revolution has been accomplished by such imperceptible degrees that it has been scarcely leit. The progress has been in the direction of good taste and naturalness, and the ridiculous features of the past can hever be revived.

So lar we have had only suggestions of the styles of the coming sensor rather than positive examples. The mania for trimming has greatly decreased, and the taste for costumes closely outlining the flaure—classic drapery—is beginning to assert itself. In colors, black and noutral lines stand the highest in lavor, and nothing promond or graring will be countenanced. In dress make rials no one can complain of a want of variety. Spring sliks in every shade of brown, gray and beige; black and white striped sliks, which have become standard favorites; colored stripes in the new Persana colorings and camed and chine stripes, with a hundred other varieties, ranging from \$1 75 to \$4 per yard, are offered for the consideration of the fair shippers. Matesiass sliks, of light material, in colors as dark as the heavier fabrics of whiter, but with smalleg figures and lower prices, from \$2.50 to \$5. will become a leading style. The same figures are repeated in soit, raw slik, resembling chinese slik, the price being about \$2.50. On this latter material are also exhibited sticaks of bright olineas slik, the price being about \$2.50. On this latter material are also exhibited sticaks of bright olineas slik, the price being about \$2.50. On this latter, have a finer lustre. Cashmere with still boid its own, and will be exhibited in every variety. In camel's har goods the coloring and designs will be more positive than in the winter styles, yet retaining the same characteristics. In some instances the bizarre in color as been sought and attained at the accritice of good taste. Serges and ponges will partake of the prevailing idea of checks and plands and soit, all wool de bege is still very popular. It is rather early in the season to speak of thin goods, but it may safely be

been popular will still be patronized.

Fringe will be a leading style of trimming this season, and is shown in every grade of quality and an endless variety of styles. There are slik braid iringes, capable of suiting any taste. Embrouery it slik and worsted fringes, capable of suiting any taste. Embrouery it slik and worsted fringes, capable of suiting any taste. Embrouery it slik and worsted it slik popular as ever, and jet and steet beans are latermingted whenever they can be used with propriety. Sik emutodery on very fine netting comes in banus to be used en appliqué on handsone dresses. This can be purchissed in black and in celore, but is very extensive, anthough it can easily be trausierred to various dresses.

Extrect costumes for the present season are always composed of either two materials or two colors or shaded of coor. The former are more general, and the tavorite fabrics for spiring wear are, uncoubtedly, six and cashmere, or fine cast are, uncoubtedly, six and cashmere, or fine cast and suit for the under. Black cashmere, frimmed with black sik and navy blee, trimmed also with slik to match, are very much admired.

Of all articles of feminine wear the bonner is one that has undergone the most femarkable changes. From the days of the old Legnorn coal southe down to the dansy fittle structures of the present time the aumirer of varieties wound puzzie even an expert at election returns. There is one great merit about the present syles of heaugear, they suit every taste and acc. The new syles in hats are noticeably larger than those of last season—larger, in fact, than tare have been worn for many years. Real novelies are store. The country and the store and acc. The new syles in hats are noticeably larger than those of last season—larger, in fact, than they have been worn for many years. Heat novelies of the past season are repeated, or, rather, enlarged upon in more seasonable materials, and, lancitul as they are, it cannot be demied that in most cases tarey are will be a felt. In that change the

The new trimming materials are figured cripe de chine; saim d'Orient, which is repped like gros-gran, but as soit and pinble as crèpe de chine, and the exquisite damask serge, which is also known as brocade serge and materials, although the first name is by far the most suitante. Gros grain is also used, and this and the above named materials have entirely replaced "requoise and similar suits."